

---

**Introduced by Senator De León**

May 14, 2014

---

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 120—Relative to Year of the Community.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 120, as introduced, De León. Year of the Community: developmental disabilities.

This measure would proclaim the year of 2014 as the “Year of the Community,” and would declare that the Legislature will actively promote the rights of persons with developmental disabilities and their full inclusion into community life.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Forty-five years ago, the State of California enacted  
2 the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, a bold  
3 new direction in public-private partnership that fundamentally  
4 changed and dramatically improved the quality of life for people  
5 with developmental disabilities and their families and that would  
6 become a model for the nation; and

7 WHEREAS, The vision to enable people with developmental  
8 disabilities to live full, productive, and satisfying lives as active  
9 members of their communities was embodied in a statewide  
10 network of community-based services and supports with regional  
11 centers playing the role of the coordinating hub; and

12 WHEREAS, California’s first pilot regional centers for  
13 delivering services to persons with developmental disabilities,  
14 Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, and San Francisco Aid for

1 Retarded Children, which opened in 1966, marked the beginning  
2 of the regional center system; and

3 WHEREAS, By their achievements, the pilot centers proved  
4 the merit of the regional center concept and led to the introduction  
5 of Assembly Bill No. 225 in 1969, which enacted the Lanterman  
6 Mental Retardation Services Act of 1969, which is currently known  
7 as the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act  
8 (hereafter Lanterman Act), and which established the statewide  
9 system of services for persons with developmental disabilities;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The statewide system was designed to be organized  
12 at the regional level and to produce a dynamic network of local  
13 services and supports; and

14 WHEREAS, The increased availability of services in the  
15 community precipitated the state's shift from nearly total reliance  
16 on large state institutions to a regional service system in which  
17 more than 99 percent of children and adults with developmental  
18 disabilities receive all of their needed services and supports in the  
19 community; and

20 WHEREAS, The regional center system was intended to provide  
21 services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities  
22 that are innovative and cost effective, that result in growth and  
23 development, that improve the quality of life, and that support  
24 inclusion into community life; and

25 WHEREAS, During the decades following the passage of the  
26 Lanterman Act, the service system's evolution was enabled by  
27 advances in knowledge and technology and by the increasing  
28 recognition of the right of people with disabilities to choice and  
29 full participation in society, including the rights of children to live  
30 at home with their families; and

31 WHEREAS, The 21 regional centers in California continue to  
32 expand and diversify their services while serving over 265,000  
33 persons with developmental disabilities and their families; and

34 WHEREAS, The service system has grown increasingly  
35 complex, requirements for service providers have grown in  
36 sophistication, and expectations for services have become more  
37 rigorous due to advances in knowledge and technology; and

38 WHEREAS, The 45th anniversary of the signing of the  
39 Lanterman Act is an appropriate time to reaffirm our commitment

1 to the act, and renew our investment in the community system;  
2 now, therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the year  
5 of 2014 as the “Year of the Community” and the beginning of a  
6 decade of renewed commitment to both the vision of the Lanterman  
7 Act and the investments needed to ensure a sustainable future for  
8 California’s community service system; and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That the Legislature will actively promote the rights  
10 of people with developmental disabilities and their full inclusion  
11 into community life in California; and be it further

12 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
13 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.